

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 125

Introduced by Assembly Member Villines

February 16, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 125—Relative to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 125, as amended, Villines. Health facilities: youth athlete heart screenings.

This measure would encourage all local hospitals ~~and other~~, health facilities, *and health care providers* with the ability to perform ~~Electrocardiogram~~ *electrocardiogram* and ~~Echocardiogram~~ *echocardiogram* screenings to partner with high schools in their geographic area to provide free screenings for young athletes.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Los Gatos High School football player Michael
2 Halpin collapsed at school on December 2, 2008, and later died
3 of a previously undetected heart defect; and
4 WHEREAS, Over 450,000 Americans collapse and die of
5 sudden cardiac arrest each year, including many young athletes;
6 and
7 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is an abrupt loss of the heart’s
8 ability to pump blood. It differs from a heart attack, which is caused
9 by a loss of blood that causes the heart tissue to die. In sudden
10 cardiac arrest the body’s electrical system becomes defective and

1 the heart is not able to form an organized beat and plunges into
2 rapid or chaotic activity; and

3 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is generally a result of a
4 cardiovascular disorder, the most common of which is hypertrophic
5 cardiomyopathy (HCM), that is often triggered by physical exertion
6 like participation in sports; and

7 WHEREAS, The incidence of sudden cardiac arrest in people
8 between 15 and 34, inclusive, years of age has increased by ~~10%~~
9 *10 percent* in the last decade. While still relatively rare, sudden
10 cardiac arrest, if a person is susceptible to it, more often occurs in
11 younger, ~~high-school-aged~~ *school-aged* athletes than in older,
12 college and professional age athletes; and

13 WHEREAS, Electrocardiograms (EKGs) and ~~Echocardiograms~~
14 *echocardiograms* are the best way to detect heart abnormalities
15 that may lead to sudden cardiac arrest. These tests cost between
16 \$800 and \$1,500, but are often not covered by health insurance
17 because no symptoms are present to indicate the tests are needed;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, A study in Italy has shown that the use of EKG
20 and ~~Echocardiogram~~ *echocardiogram* scans can reduce the
21 incidence of sudden cardiac arrest in young athletes; and

22 WHEREAS, Some local hospitals ~~and health facilities~~, *health*
23 *facilities, and health care providers* have started programs in
24 conjunction with the high schools in surrounding areas to provide
25 free cardiac screening to young athletes to reduce the incidence
26 of sudden cardiac arrest and death; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
28 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages all local
29 hospitals ~~and other health facilities~~, *health facilities, and health*
30 *care providers* with the ability to perform ~~Electrocardiogram and~~
31 ~~Echocardiogram~~ *electrocardiogram and echocardiogram*
32 screenings to partner with high schools in their geographic area to
33 provide free screenings for young athletes as a tribute to and
34 remembrance of Michael Halpin and other young athletes ~~that~~
35 *who* have fallen to sudden cardiac arrest and to prevent future
36 tragedies; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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5 CORRECTIONS:

6 Text—Page 2.

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